

# Oliver L. Jackson



Visual Arts



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has always used figural imagery. The human figure and its gestural possibilities continue to excite and provoke him.

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The images create a dramatic effect, but they are not the subject matter, and therefore are not involved in narrative. “The figural gestural effects,” he says, “make the field potent.” The overwhelming effect is most often of an ambiguous expanse in which clusters of image forms gather and disperse, revealing dynamics of volume and space. In his work, the figure, in all its suggestiveness, is the basis for modalities (specific realities)—that is, all figuration is visual vocabulary, not subject matter.

↑  
Untitled, 2002

→  
Untitled, 2003









↑  
Untitled, 2006

“The use of figural imagery is a source for visual thinking,” he says. “When I say ‘visual thinking’ it’s like concretizing something so that it can be seen. The figurative imagery suits me because I can get going with it. It stimulates me. My goal is to make

an authentic work that references my sentiment. What I want is the reference to be as one-to-one with my sentiment as is possible. The imagery within the work is unique for me when the relationships are potent. This potency is developed through compositional





elements, the spatial placement, weights and balances, mass, volume, etc. What became clear, and it was humorous to me, was that figurative images are not human beings and the image references are not people under any circumstance.”

↑  
*Untitled, 2006*

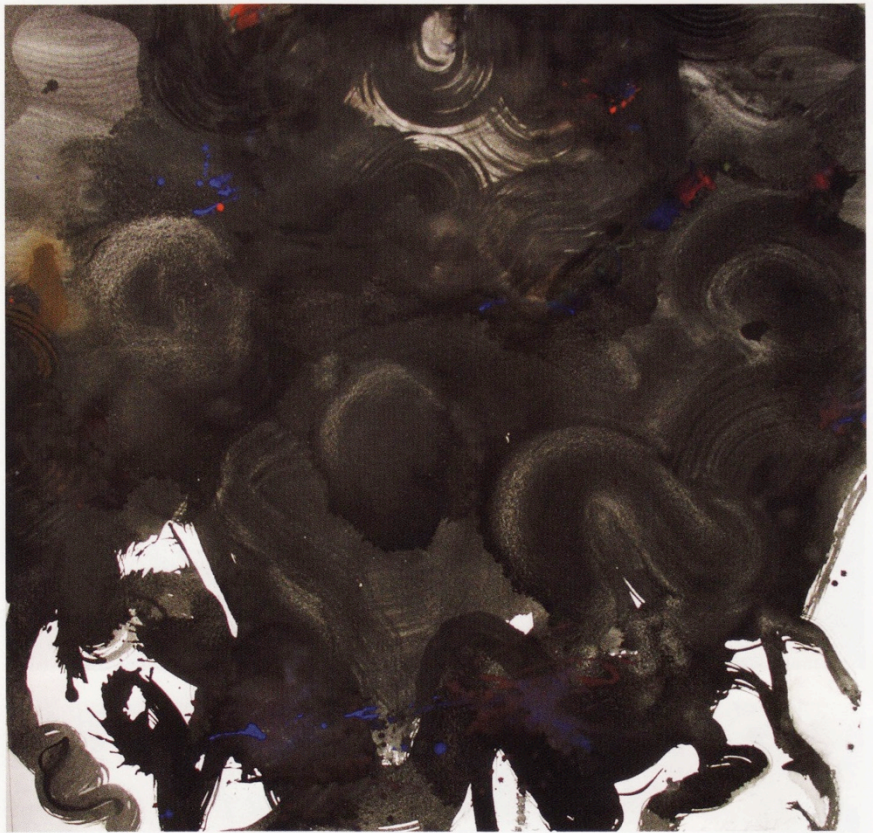




↑  
Untitled, 2006

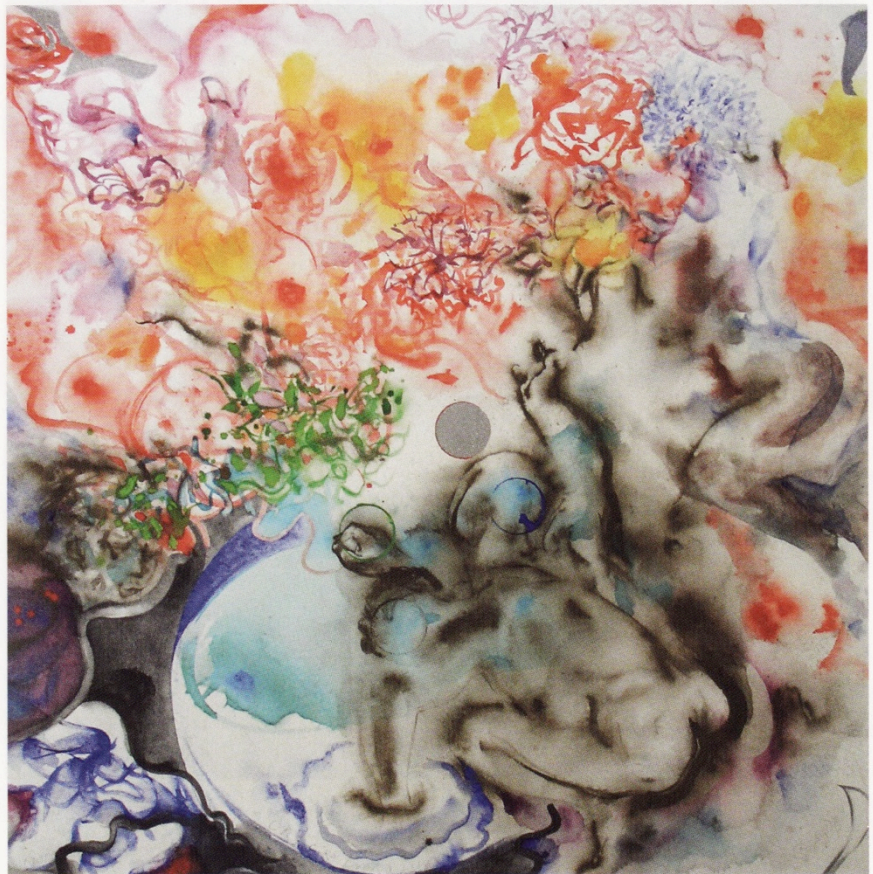


→  
Untitled, 2010



→  
Untitled, 2011

Oliver L. Jackson is a resident of Oakland, California. He has collaborated with musicians, writers and dramatists, including Julius Hemphill, Marty Ehrlich, Quincy Troupe, Paul Carter Harrison, Michael Harper, Black Artists Group of St. Louis, Cleveland/ San Jose Ballet, and other artists. His works are exhibited in the collections of major museums throughout the U.S., including the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.







←  
Tapestry, No. 1, 2011



←  
Untitled, 2011